

U.S. Embassy Kinshasa
Office of Public Affairs

For Immediate Release
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Statement by Charge d'Affaires Samuel Brock

Presidential Delegation led by
Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy Judith McHale

Under Secretary of State for Public Affairs Judith McHale visited Kinshasa from June 29-30, 2010, to represent the United States at the celebration of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's 50th Anniversary of Independence and National Day. She echoed the message of President Obama, who sent a letter congratulating the people of the DRC on this special occasion and noting the progress and sacrifices they have made.

In addition to her participation in the official celebrations, Under Secretary McHale met with civil society representatives to reaffirm the United States' commitment to work with the Congolese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue to strengthen democratic institutions and promote human rights. She received Annie Chebeya and presented condolences, both her own and those of the government of the United States, on the death of her husband, activist Floribert Chebeya. She also expressed concern about the whereabouts of Fidel Bazana, who is still missing. The Under Secretary stressed the need for the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to carry out an expeditious, transparent, and credible investigation into Mr. Chebeya's murder, and reiterated the offer of the U.S. government to provide forensic and technical assistance with the criminal investigation.

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Press Statement

Drafted: AF/PDPA, Lynn Roche, Ext 3-0507, June 24, 2010

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